

Internal Revenue Service, Treasury

§ 35.3405-1

behalf of C. O is the employer for whom services are normally rendered by C.

Example 3. D is a member of a labor union whose members receive health and welfare benefit payments from a trust fund which is supported by the contributions of the various employers who employ the labor union's members. D has been employed by Company R for 4 days when he becomes sick and is absent from work for 3 months. While D is absent from work he receives sick pay from his union's trust fund to which R has made contributions on D's behalf. R is the employer for whom services are normally rendered by D.

(3) For purposes of paragraph (e) of this section, in the case of payments on account of sickness or accident disability made to employees by a third party insurer pursuant to a contract of insurance with a multiemployer plan which is obligated to make payments on account of sickness or accident disability to such employees pursuant to a collectively bargained agreement, if the third party insurer making the payments complies with the requirements of subdivisions (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (2) of paragraph (e) and notifies the plan of the amount of compensation paid on which tax was withheld and deposited within the time required for notification of the employer under subparagraph (2) of paragraph (e), then the plan (and not the third party insurer) shall be required to pay the tax imposed by section 3221 and to comply with the requirements of section 6051 and §§31.6051-1 and 31.6051-2 with respect to such payments unless, within 6 business days of the receipt of such notification, the plan notifies the employer for whom services are normally rendered of the amount of the compensation on which tax was withheld and deposited. If the plan provides such notice to the employer, the employer (and not the plan) shall be required to pay the tax imposed by section 3221 and to comply with the requirements of section 6051 and §§31.6051-1 and 31.6051-2 with respect to the compensation.

[T.D. 7823, 47 FR 29225, July 6, 1982, as amended by T. D. 7867, 48 FR 793, Jan. 7, 1983]

PART 34 [RESERVED]

PART 35—EMPLOYMENT TAX AND COLLECTION OF INCOME TAX AT SOURCE REGULATIONS UNDER THE TAX EQUITY AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1982

Sec.

35.3405-1 Questions and answers relating to withholding on pensions, annuities, and certain other deferred income.

35.3405-1T Questions and answers relating to withholding on pensions, annuities, and certain other deferred income (temporary regulations).

AUTHORITY: 26 U.S.C. 6047(e), 7805; 68A Stat. 917; 96 Stat. 625; Public Law 97-248 (96 Stat. 623).

Section 35.3405-1 also issued under 26 U.S.C. 3405(e)(10)(B)(iii).

Section 35.3405-1T also issued under 26 U.S.C. 3405(e)(10)(B)(iii).

§35.3405-1 Questions and answers relating to withholding on pensions, annuities, and certain other deferred income.

The following questions and answers relate to withholding on pensions, annuities, and other deferred income under section 3405 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by section 334 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Tax Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-248) (TEFRA).

a-1 through d-34 [Reserved]. For further guidance, see §35.3405-1T.

d-35. Q. *Through what medium may a payor provide the notice required under section 3405 to a payee?*

A. A payor may provide the notice required under section 3405 (including the abbreviated notice described in d-27 of §35.3405-1T and the annual notice described in d-31 of §35.3405-1T) to a payee either on a written paper document or through an electronic medium reasonably accessible to the payee. A notice provided through an electronic medium must be provided under a system that satisfies the following requirements:

(a) The system must be reasonably designed to provide the notice in a manner no less understandable to the payee than a written paper document.

(b) At the time the notice is provided, the payee must be advised that the payee may request and receive the notice on a written paper document at

no charge, and, upon request, that document must be provided to the payee at no charge.

d-36. Q. *Are there examples that illustrate the provisions of d-35 of this section?*

A. The provisions of d-35 of this section are illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. (i) An employer deferred compensation plan (Plan A) permits participants to request distributions by e-mail. Under Plan A's system for such transactions, a participant must enter his or her account number and personal identification number (PIN); this information must match that in Plan A's records in order for the transaction to proceed. The plan administrator is the payor. If a participant requests a distribution from Plan A by e-mail, the plan administrator provides the participant with the notice required under section 3405 by e-mail. The plan administrator also advises the participant by e-mail that he or she may request the notice on a written paper document and that, if the participant requests the notice on a written paper document, it will be provided at no charge. To proceed with the distribution by e-mail, the participant must acknowledge receipt, review, and comprehension of the notice.

(ii) In this *Example 1*, the plan administrator does not fail to satisfy the notice requirement of section 3405 merely because the notice is provided to the participant other than through a written paper document.

Example 2. (i) An employer deferred compensation plan (Plan B) permits participants to request distributions through the Plan B web site (Internet or intranet). Under Plan B's system for such transactions, a participant must enter his or her account number and personal identification number (PIN); this information must match that in Plan B's records in order for the transaction to proceed. The plan administrator is the payor. A participant may request a distribution from Plan B by following the applicable instructions on the Plan B web site. After the participant has requested a distribution, the participant is automatically shown a page on the web site containing the notice required by section 3405. Although this page of the web site may be printed, the page also advises the participant that he or she may request the notice on a written paper document and that, if the participant requests the notice on a written paper document, it will be provided at no charge. To proceed with the distribution through the web site, the participant must acknowledge receipt, review, and comprehension of the notice.

(ii) In this *Example 2*, the plan administrator does not fail to satisfy the notice requirement of section 3405 merely because the

notice is provided to the participant other than through a written paper document.

Example 3. (i) An employer deferred compensation plan (Plan C) permits participants to request distributions through Plan C's automated telephone system. Under Plan C's system for such transactions, a participant must enter his or her account number and personal identification number (PIN); this information must match that in Plan C's records in order for the transaction to proceed. The plan administrator is the payor. A participant may request a distribution from Plan C by following the applicable instructions on the automated telephone system. After the participant has requested a distribution, the automated telephone system reads the notice required by section 3405 to the participant. The automated telephone system also advises the participant that he or she may request the notice on a written paper document and that, if the participant requests the notice on a written paper document, it will be provided at no charge. Before proceeding with the distribution transaction, the participant must acknowledge receipt, review, and comprehension of the notice.

(ii) In this *Example 3*, the plan administrator does not fail to satisfy the notice requirement of section 3405 merely because the notice is provided to the participant other than through a written paper document.

Example 4. (i) Same facts as *Example 3*, except that, pursuant to the system for processing such transactions, a participant who so requests is transferred to a customer service representative whose conversation with the participant is recorded. The customer service representative provides the notice required by section 3405 by reading from a prepared text.

(ii) *Conclusion.* In this *Example 4*, the plan administrator does not fail to satisfy the notice requirement of section 3405 merely because the notice is provided to the participant other than through a written paper document.

Example 5. (i) Same facts as *Example 1*, except that Participant D requested a distribution by e-mail and then terminated employment. Participant D no longer has access to e-mail.

(ii) In this *Example 5*, the plan administrator does not satisfy the notice requirement of section 3405 because the electronic medium through which the notice is provided is not reasonably accessible to Participant D. Plan A must provide the notice required by section 3405 to Participant D in a written paper document or by an electronic medium that is reasonably accessible to Participant D.

[T.D. 8873, 65 FR 6007, Feb. 8, 2000; 65 FR 17149, Mar. 31, 2000]